

The author gives a detailed account of the geological position of the insectiferous strata, and states that "one object of the present imperfect sketch has been to show the value and importance of even *minute* investigations, in elucidating the conditions under which certain strata were deposited, and more especially to point out the existence of many of those fragile but beautiful forms of animal life which tenanted our earth at very early geological periods. Our minds are so constituted that we readily admire everything grand or sublime in nature; but we are apt to overlook those small and less striking objects, which are, in fact, equally worthy of our observation and regard."

We strongly recommend Mr. Brodie's work not only to our geological readers, but also to entomologists and other naturalists, and will conclude by quoting a portion of his last paragraph, in which we need not add that we fully concur:—"In all our labours and reasonings it should never be forgotten that every examination into the wonders and beauties of God's creation, whilst it increases our knowledge and improves the understanding, has also a far higher and better purpose in displaying the glory of God, and in leading us to adore and praise the wisdom and omnipotence which are daily displayed in the material world."

Flora Calpensis: Contributions to the Botany and Topography of Gibraltar and its neighbourhood. By E. F. KELAART, M.D. London, 1846. 8vo.

In his 'Voyage Botanique dans le Midi de l'Espagne,' it is observed by Boissier, when writing about Gibraltar, that he is "astonished that such a work (a flora) has not already been undertaken by some of the officers of the garrison." Such astonishment cannot in future be expressed by botanists visiting this singular place, for we have now before us a work of very high character by "one of the officers of the garrison." Dr. Kelaart has availed himself of the knowledge which he obtained of the delightful science of botany during his studies in the University of Edinburgh, by employing that leisure time which his medical duties permitted in carefully exploring the rock of Gibraltar, and has now published a list which will be found highly valuable to the botanical geographer, and doubtless lead to a very complete acquaintance with the vegetable productions of "the rock."

The author appears to have made full use of the labours of former botanists who have visited Gibraltar, more especially of the account published by Boissier in his above-quoted work. He also refers to Willkomm's notice of his visit, a translation of which will be found in these 'Annals' (xvii. 118). In his Introduction the author remarks, that "the comparative botanist will find among the plants of Spain many which are also common to the Mediterranean coasts of Africa and Asia Minor. In this respect Gibraltar, being only a portion of the Peninsula, affords an opportunity of showing the extent of this similarity, and I have endeavoured to exhibit it in the habi-

tats given to the plants in the Synopsis." This seems to us a very valuable addition to the list of species, showing at a glance the countries in which each plant has been observed. Dr. Kelaart enumerates 456 species of flowering plants and ferns as native to Gibraltar; of these he considers forty as generally distributed in Europe; fifty-eight as South-European; sixty-three as common to Europe and Africa; 174 common to the South of Europe and Africa; thirteen confined to Spain and Barbary; ninety-six common to Europe, Asia Minor and North Africa; and twelve confined to Europe and Asia Minor. There are 140 British species, 170 Madeira; about as many Canary species, 160 Sicilian, about two-thirds Maltese, and seventy-three Azorean. The *Iberis gibraltarica* is the only species peculiar to the rock, although several others derive their names from it.

The volume is divided into four parts: Part I. gives a very full and interesting account of the Topography, including observations on the geology (in which the author deplors that the publication (Journal of the Geolog. Soc. ii. 41) of the valuable geological account of Gibraltar by Mr. Smith of Jordan Hill did not take place until the greater part of his work was printed), climate and medical statistics. Part II. is a general account of the Botany. Part III. contains the Synopsis of Plants growing in Gibraltar. Part IV. the Botany of the neighbourhood of Gibraltar. And in the Appendix is Boissier's account of his visit and the descriptions of new plants found by him. The illustrations consist of three interesting views of the rock and a small map: we could wish that another map, on a larger scale, had been added.

We can cordially recommend Dr. Kelaart's book. We have often wondered that so few of the enthusiastic young botanists found amongst the medical students of Edinburgh and other schools have done anything to advance scientific botany, although the employment of many of them in the army or navy cannot but afford them numerous opportunities. We trust that they will follow Dr. Kelaart's example.

WORKS JUST PUBLISHED.

Outlines of Structural and Physiological Botany. By A. HENFREY, F.L.S. Part I.

"The chief object of this work," observes the author, "is to give a concise view of the actual state of our knowledge at the present time, to the exclusion of all hypotheses, hazarded without sufficient ground or negated by experience. The various points are treated as they rise progressively in complexity; by this means the development and morphology of structures and organs will be more easily explained, and at the same time will conduce to the simplification of the subject, by leading to the recognition of an unity of plan throughout the Vegetable Kingdom."